MAIN ACTIVITY   CCRA.R.7

THE DAILY BYTE

Port Douglas: What's Happening Now?

Last night, Hurricane Dante made landfall near the coast of Port Douglas. Many residents had already evacuated. The storm caused major flooding, and essential services have been wiped out in many areas. Dante's impact has disrupted the normal routine of just about everyone living in our community.

A major problem in Port Douglas is power outages. About half the city has no electricity and no idea when it will return.

Fortunately, *The Daily Byte* did not lose electricity. We are up and running, and planning to report all Dante-related problems, and, as they come along, their solutions.

> @PortPolice
> Those who must still leave their homes can go to shelters at Port Elementary and Douglas M.S.

Governor San Miguel's Press Conference

During his press conference, the governor said this about people who insist on staying in unsafe areas in Port Douglas:

"You may have made it through the storm, but if you are living in an evacuation area, we still need you to leave your home. Buildings could still collapse. Staying home puts you in danger and also endangers the lives of those who might need to come to your rescue!"

> @GovSanMiguel
> People who refuse to leave their unsafe homes are straining city and state resources. #staysafe

AFTER THE STORM

MAIN ACTIVITY CONT'D CCRA.R.7

Damage to Structures Hurricane Dante has done millions of dollars' worth of damage to homes and other buildings. Some structures actually caved in from the force of winds unlike any Port Douglas residents have experienced, including the oldest among us.

Captain Marshall of the Port Douglas Police Department surveyed the damage from a helicopter. "I saw no fewer than 30 badly damaged homes near the riverbank," he exclaimed.

Community Response The community's response in the aftermath of Dante has been amazing. People have felt an overwhelming sense of concern and support for one another. Local houses of worship and schools have provided space for food pantries and donations of clothing. Neighbors have helped the elderly evacuate their homes. People who still have electricity have been generous to those without it. Many have gone so far as to set up power-sharing stations, so that neighbors can charge their digital devices.
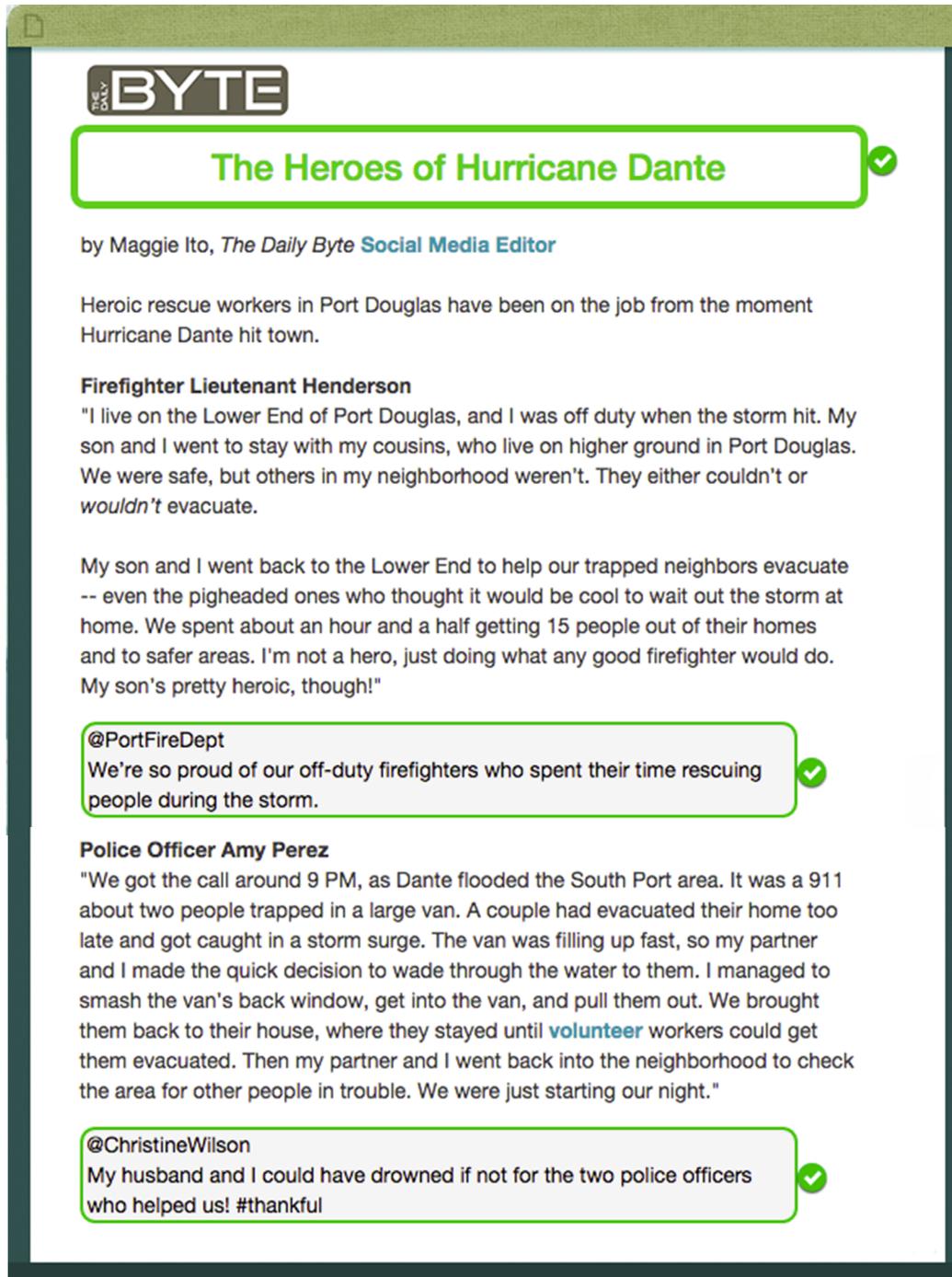
Ongoing Updates Check in regularly to *The Byte* for updates on what's happening in Port Douglas as we try to recover from one of the worst storms on record.

FIRST SUPPORT ACTIVITY

CCRA.R.7

BYTE

The Heroes of Hurricane Dante

by Maggie Ito, *The Daily Byte* Social Media Editor

Heroic rescue workers in Port Douglas have been on the job from the moment Hurricane Dante hit town.

Firefighter Lieutenant Henderson
"I live on the Lower End of Port Douglas, and I was off duty when the storm hit. My son and I went to stay with my cousins, who live on higher ground in Port Douglas. We were safe, but others in my neighborhood weren't. They either couldn't or *wouldn't* evacuate.

My son and I went back to the Lower End to help our trapped neighbors evacuate -- even the pigheaded ones who thought it would be cool to wait out the storm at home. We spent about an hour and a half getting 15 people out of their homes and to safer areas. I'm not a hero, just doing what any good firefighter would do. My son's pretty heroic, though!"

> @PortFireDept
> We're so proud of our off-duty firefighters who spent their time rescuing people during the storm.

Police Officer Amy Perez
"We got the call around 9 PM, as Dante flooded the South Port area. It was a 911 about two people trapped in a large van. A couple had evacuated their home too late and got caught in a storm surge. The van was filling up fast, so my partner and I made the quick decision to wade through the water to them. I managed to smash the van's back window, get into the van, and pull them out. We brought them back to their house, where they stayed until volunteer workers could get them evacuated. Then my partner and I went back into the neighborhood to check the area for other people in trouble. We were just starting our night."

> @ChristineWilson
> My husband and I could have drowned if not for the two police officers who helped us! #thankful

AFTER THE STORM

SECOND SUPPORT ACTIVITY   CCRA.R.7

Where Dante Hit Worst

Terrible damage and flooding have made some areas **unrecognizable**.

Port Douglas will have a hard time forgetting the night of Dante. But **residents** of its hardest-hit areas will remember the storm for a lot longer than the rest of us.

The damage done by Dante in these parts left a lot of people homeless.

Flooding in these areas is so bad that the waters are knee-high.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY   CCRA.R.7

BYTE

The Daily Byte's Master Plan for Reporting on the Aftermath of Dante

We are at a **critical moment** in Port Douglas's history. Hurricane Dante has damaged our shoreline, our buildings, many of our **businesses**, and -- worst of all -- it has injured and **traumatized** a great many of our **residents**.

It is also an important moment in the history of *The Daily Byte*. The way we report on the **direct** aftermath of the storm will be remembered for a long time to come. We need to report the **effects** of Dante in these areas:

- People -- get the personal stories out there
- **Businesses** -- what's up and running, what's not
- City **services** -- same as above

Help: Where and How to Get It ✓

People -- Get the Personal Stories Out There
- **Who?** People whose storm stories will interest our readers
- **What?** Stories with **dramatic impact**
- **Where?** All over Port Douglas
- **Why?** We are a community. People care about their neighbors.
- **How?** For the rest of this week and all of next week, a story a day. Then we'll **reevaluate**.

Once you decide the personal story The Daily Byte will feature first, Aziz will get us a photo to go with it.

LaDonna

Jana Banks was about to leave Sneak-a-Snack when it got knocked down and washed out to sea! Good thing she can swim. ✓

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY CONT'D   CCRA.R.7

Businesses -- What's Up and Running, What's Not
- **Who?** Interview business owners or their employees
- **What?** Just the facts
- **Where?** Hardest hit areas of Port Douglas
- **Why?** Our readers need to know where to shop for the basics
- **How?** Report on an as-needed basis

Lots of Port Douglas businesses have had to close down in the aftermath of the storm. ✓
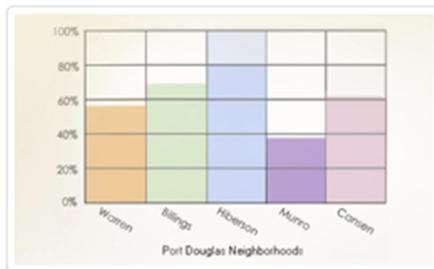
City Services -- What's Up and Running, What's Not
- **Who?** Representatives of utility companies, public transportation, and social services agencies
- **What?** Just the facts
- **Where?** All areas of Port Douglas
- **Why?** People need to know when they can get back to their normal lives
- **How?** Publish updated graphs several times a day

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY CONT'D   CCRA.R.7

This graph visualizing the state of services in city neighborhoods shows the type of data that can be updated every day. ✓

Following this catastrophic storm, *The Daily Byte* is fully committed to serving the people of Port Douglas with the best possible reporting and service to the community.